

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00673 231012Z  
ACTION PPT-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 EB-08 L-03 /024 W  
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FM USINT BAGHDAD  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4443  
INFO USDOC WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: CPAS, BGEN, IZ  
SUBJECT: IRAQI AIRWAYS ASKS BOEING EMPLOYEES TO SURRENDER PASSPORTS

1. ROY MYER, CHIEF OF BOEING'S BAGHDAD OPERATIONS, ADVISED USINT OFFICERS APRIL 14 THAT GOI OFFICIALS APRIL 13 HAD TRIED TO COLLECT THE PASSPORTS OF BOEING EMPLOYEES WORKING WITH IRAQI AIRWAYS. SUBSEQUENTLY, GOI OFFICIALS HAVE TRIED TO COLLECT PASSPORTS OF EGYPTIAN AND PAKISTANI NATIONALS WHO ARE ALSO WORKING WITH IRAQI AIRWAYS.

2. IN DISCUSSION OF PROBLEM WITH IRAQI AIRWAYS' OFFICIALS, MYER ASCERTAINED THAT THEY TOOK STEP PURSUANT OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE DATED APRIL 17, 1976 RPT 1976, TRANSMITTED TO IRAQI AIRWAYS VIA MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS COVERING LETTER DATED APRIL 1, 1977 RPT 1977. OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH QUOTED BELOW.

"THE CONTRACTING OFFICE WILL UNDERTAKE TO WITHDRAW AND RETAIN THE PASSPORTS OF (FOREIGN) EXPERTS AND WILL PROVIDE THEM WITH PERSONAL IDENTITY CARDS WHICH THEY WILL USE IN LIEU OF PASSPORTS DURING THE PERIOD OF THEIR RESIDENCE IN IRAQ".

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3. ON ADVICE OF USINT, MYER HAS ASKED HIS STAFF NOT RPT NOT TO SURRENDER PASSPORTS AND HAS SENT LETTER DATED APRIL 16 TO IRAI AIRWAYS' OFFICIALS ASKING THAT BOEING EMPLOYEES BE EXEMPTED FROM THIS DECREE. STATING THAT BOEING "WILL STRONGLY RESIST SURRENDER OF ITS EMPLOYEES' PASSPORTS", THE LETTER POINTS OUT THAT:

THE PASSPORTS ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT;  
SEIZURE AND RETENTION OF FOREIGN PASSPORTS VIOLATES INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE AND WILL CAUSE SERIOUS PERSONAL AND OPERATIONAL DIFFICULTIES FOR BOEING EMPLOYEES, MANY OF WHOM HAVE TO TRAVEL FREQUENTLY IN THE COURSE OF THEIR DUTIES;  
DECREE MAY NOT BE APPLICABLE TO BOEING EMPLOYEES BECAUSE IT SPECIFIES FOREIGN "EXPERTS" RATHER THAN EMPLOYEES OF FOREIGN COMPANIES HAVING CONTACTS WITH IRAQI GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.

4. IN ADDITION TO FOREIGNER WORKING WITH IRAQI AIRWAYS, WE HAVE LEARNED THAT INDIAN AND PAKISTANI INSTRUCTORS AT BAGHDAD UNIVERSITY HAVE BEEN ASKED TO SURRENDER THEIR PASSPORTS. AN AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGIST HAS ALSO INFORMED US THAT SHE SURRENDERED HER PASSPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTIQUITIES IN RETURN FOR A TRAVEL PASS AUTHORIZING HER TO VISIT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES.

5. GENERAL REACTION OF DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY HAS BEEN VOWS OF STOUT RESISTANCE. EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR TOL PRINCIPAL OFFICER THAT EGYPTIANS HAD ALREADY PROTESTED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY. OECD AMBASSADORS AND COMMERCIAL ATTACHES HAVE BEEN UNIFORMLY ADAMANT IN THEIR OPPOSITION IF DECREE APPLIED TO THEIR NATIONALS.

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6. WE ARE AWAITING IRAQI AIRWAY'S REPLY TO BOEING'S LETTER. IF IRAQI AIRWAYS INSISTS ON BOEING EMPLOYEES SURRENDERING THEIR PASSPORTS, WE WILL RAISE MATTER WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY.  
WILEY

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## Message Attributes

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